

N-12 Joints

Following Joe Chlapaty's guidance, we discussed the need to improve N-12 and potential courses of action. Our pilot focus group will include discussion on potential needs for product improvements. Ideas discussed included:

Dave Kelley discussed Alternative Corrugation Design: wider corrugations and narrower valley with significantly reduced distance between corrugations in the spigot region only. This provides a wider profile. This may improve stiffness and allow use of a narrower (and less expensive) gasket. Bill Shaffer is looking at several IB redesigns and may consider this design. The new designs are going in this direction.

John McGeorge mentioned that several projects do not require gasketed joints. He's had more than six projects this year where the contractor removed the gasket from IB pipe prior to installation. They said they do not need a gasketed pipe and that our gasket would not allow the pipe to be pushed home without significant insertion force. They would rather do it by hand with 24" and below. John suggested ADS could save the cost of the gasket for many projects. This, of course, would cause an inventory issue. Engineering (PXC) indicated this is fool hardy at best. John indicated he didn't file a Q/C complaint. PXC felt he had a responsibility to discuss the necessity of a joint/gasket with the contractor.

Mark Arnold brought up the concept of WT-IB. Bill Shaffer is investigating this, but at a low priority in his list of projects. Bill is considering alternative gasket designs which may make existing IB water-tight. Mark also reintroduced the dual wall process recently patented by Hegler which welds the inner and outer walls together to form a thicker integral bell. Dave indicated this will slow line speed by as much as 50%. Tom King does not see the need to pursue this, since we know of only a limited demand for WT pipe. Dave mentioned that we could design a slightly longer bell that would allow a WT gasket to be used inside a full corrugation.

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